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### Cuba Increases Ties With Communist China

The Peiping opera company which is touring Latin America will spend most of June in Havana. Its visit will highlight a program which the Castro regime has been planning for several months emphasizing Cuban-Chinese cultural ties. The newly formed Cuban-Chinese Friendship Association, headed by pro-Communist Cubans who have recently visited Peiping, will probably play a prominent role, and the campaign may be a prelude to the expected establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The New China News Agency--which reports extensively on Cuban affairs and is believed to contribute financially to the Chinese-language Communist newspaper in Cuba and to Castro's Prensa Latina news agency--reported on 26 May that a Cuban student delegation had been welcomed to Peiping the previous day. At least one other student group, a labor delegation, a number of Castro officials, and Cuban Communist leaders have also visited Communist China in recent weeks. Thirty Cuban Communist students are reliably reported to be attending a six-month training course in China.

Peiping has demonstrated particular sympathy for Castro's revolution, and Cuba seems to be a key target in plans for stepped-up Chinese Communist propaganda activities in Latin America. Peiping has probably been encouraged in its effort by recent signs of increased Cuban willingness to establish diplomatic relations with bloc countries.

